

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01363 301307Z
ACTION SIG-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 /014 W
-----012649 301315Z /75
R 191720Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9552

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 1363

NIAMEY FOR SENIOR INSPECTOR HAMILTON FROM AMBASSADOR

SECSTATE FOR S/IG
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASIG
SUBJ: AF/W INSPECTION: SUGGESTED FIELD TRIP IN MAURITANIA

REF: STATE 116993

1. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BOTH INTERESTING AND USEFUL FOR YOU TO SEE SOMETHING OTHER THAN NOUAMATT DURING YOUR DONDUCT OF RELATIONS INSPECTION. TO THIS END, WE CAN ARRANGE A TWO-DAY FIELD TRIP TO (A) ZOUERATE WHERE MAURITANIA'S IRON ORE DEPOSITS ARE MINED, AND (B) NOUADHIBOU/CANSADO, WHENCE THE ORE IS SHQPED. I HAVE TAKEN THE TRIP TWICE AND CAN ASSURE YOU IT IS WELL WORTH THE TIME SPENT.

2. TRIP WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE FIRST HAND INTER ALIA (A) EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT IN THE NORTHERN DESERT REGION, (B) THE IMPRESSIVE MODERN ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS OF SOCIETE NATIONALE INDUSTRIELLE ET MINIERE (SNIM) WHICH CONTRACT SO SHARPLY WITH ANYTHING YOU WILL SEE IN NOUAKCHOTT AND (C) THE DIFFICULTIES THAT THE SAHARA CONFLICT HAS CREATED. FYI, SNIM'S IRON ORE OPERATIONS PROVIDE ABOUT 85 PERCENT OF MAURITANIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS.

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3. TRANSPORTATION WOULD BE BY AIR. YOU WOULD BE GUESTS OF SNIM AT BOTH PLACES. ACCOMMODATIONS ARE FIRST CLASS. SIZE OF AIRCRAFT LIMITS PARTY TO 4. ASSUMING MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SNIM AND DCM WERE ACCOMPANY, THERE WOULD BE ROOM FOR TWO INSPECTORS.

4. TRIP WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN ON WORKDAYS WHICH MEANS YOU WOULD HAVE TO ALTER YOUR SCHEDULE SLIGHTLY. I SUGGEST THAT YOU FOREGO THE OVERLAND TRIP FROM DAKAR TO NOUAKCHOTT. THE DRIVE IS SINGULARLY UNATTRACTIVE. WE CAN SHOW YOU EVERYTHING YOU WOULD BE LIKELY TO SEE EN ROUTE IN A 30- MINUTE SPIN SOUTH OF NOUAKCHOTT. INSTEAD I SUGGEST YOU FLY UP FROM DAKAR SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 22 VIA MR 164 ETD 1730 HOURS. PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR WORK JULY 23 THUS ENABLING INSPECTORS TO MAKE UP IN CONSIDERABLE MEASURE THE ONE AND HALF DAYS THAT THOSE WHO MADE THE FIELD TRIP WOULD LOSE. FOLLOWING FULL WORK DAY JULY 24, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO SCHEDULE FIELD TRIP FOR JULY 25 AND 26. INSPECTORS WOULD THEN HAVE JULY 27 AND MOST OF JULY 28 TO COMPLETE INSPECTION BEFORE LEAVING NOUAKCHOTT FOR DAKAR AT 1900 JULY 28 VIA DS 552.

5. PLEASE ADVISE. KRYZA

NOTE BY OCT: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NOUAKC01363
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-1116
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780540/aaaabhlml.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b63d8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIG
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 116993
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2638004
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AF/W INSPECTION: SUGGESTED FIELD TRIP IN MAURITANIA
TAGS: ASIG
To: NIAMEY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b63d8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014